

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, SOPN

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON AMBASSADORIAL SHIFTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN AUGUST 26 WASHINGTON POST ENTITLED "WHITE HOUSE PLANS DIPLOMATIC CHANGE IN MOSCOW, BONN":

QUOTE BY MURREY MARDER AND SPENCER RICH. A CHANGE OF AMBASSADORS IN AT LEAST TWO MAJOR AMERICAN EMBASSIES, MOSCOW AND BONN, IS PLANNED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION AS PART OF A MULTIPLE SHIFT OF ENVOYS ABROAD, IT WAS LEARNED

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YESTERDAY.

AMBASSADOR WALTER J. STOESEL, WHO HAS DIRECTED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW SINCE 1974, IS EXPECTED TO BE SHIFTED TO BONN, REPLACING AMBASSADOR MARTIN J. HILLENBRAND, WHO IS RETIRING FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

BOTH STOESEL AND HILLENBRAND ARE CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS. HILLENBRAND, 61, HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE BONN EMBASSY SINCE 1972. HE IS REPORTED PLANNING TO JOIN A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

STOESEL, 56, HAS HAD A HEALTH PROBLEM WITH ANEMIA, AND BONN IS EXPECTED TO BE LESS DEMANDING THAN THE DUTIES AND CLIMATE IN THE SOVIET UNION.

STOESEL HAS BEEN INTERMITTENTLY ASSIGNED TO MOSCOW SINCE 1947. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT FOR YEARS SOVIET MICROWAVES HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TO COUNTER U.S. ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE-COLLECTION EQUIPMENT. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THERE IS NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF RADIATION DAMAGE TO STOESEL OR OTHER AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AT THE EMBASSY, BUT ACTION RECENTLY HAS BEEN TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RADIATION HAZARD.

A SUCCESSOR TO STOESEL IS UNDECIDED, ACCORDING TO ADMINISTRATION SOURCES. THE LEADING CANDIDATES TO REPLACE HIM ARE REPORTED TO BE RICHARD T. DAVIES, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO POLAND, AND MALCOLM TOON, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. BOTH ARE CAREER SPECIALISTS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE.

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS NOTIFIED THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT IT INTENDS TO NOMINATE GRAHAM A. MARTIN, THE CONTROVERSIAL LAST U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AS AN AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PORTIONS OF MICRONESIA.

IF THE ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDS WITH THE MARTIN NOMINATION, IT IS EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER CHALLENGES FROM MANY SENATORS

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ON HIS HANDLING OF THE EVACUATION IN THE TURBULENT DAYS BEFORE THE FALL OF SAIGON IN APRIL, 1975.

MARTIN PUBLICLY DEFENDED THE EVACUATION IN A HOUSE HEARING LAST JANUARY, BUT ONE SENATOR, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAID YESTERDAY, "THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE HANDLED THE JOB IN VIETNAM."

LIBERAL CRITICS ACCUSE MARTIN, WHO PREVIOUSLY WAS A CONTROVERSIAL U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, OF FOLLOWING AN EXTREME ANTI-COMMUNIST LINE WHICH LIMITED U.S. NEGOTIATING OPTIONS.

MARTIN'S ASSIGNMENT, IF NOMINATED AND CONFIRMED, WOULD BE TO HELP NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF THE REMAINING U.S.-MANAGED PORTIONS OF MICRONESIA. EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS WERE TAKEN OUT OF U.S.-OPERATED U.N. TRUSTEESHIP, AND FORMED INTO A SEPARATE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A SERIES OF OTHER AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, ALSO ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION BEFORE ITS PRESENT TERM RUNS ON IN JANUARY. END QUOTE.

2. IF ASKED THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WILL RESPOND THAT WE DO NOT COMMENT ON STORIES REGARDING PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS. KISSINGER

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